

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Election of Inventions

The Examiner has requested an election of a single invention for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner has identified the following inventions:

Group I Claims 1-13, drawn to a defensin-stimulating composition;

Group II Claims 14-26, drawn to a method for treating a beta-defensin associated disorder;

Group III Claims 27-32, drawn to a method for stimulating production of a beta-defensin-2, beta-defensin-3 or both;

Group IV Claims 33 and 34, drawn to a method for identifying a composition that stimulates beta defensin 2 or beta defensin 3 in an epithelial cell of a vertebrate;

Group V Claims 35-37, drawn to a method for screening for agents that induce an innate immune response in a human.

Additionally, the Examiner required a further election of a specific sequence if the claims of Group I were elected, a further election of a specific disease and etiological agent if the claims of Group II were elected, or a further election of a specific defensin or combination thereof if the claims of Group III were elected.

The Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I, claims 1-13, and further elects the sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 1 in those claims.

The outstanding Office action was electronically transmitted on June 27, 2008. The Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply of 1 month or 30 days from the mailing date. A petition for a two month extension of time is hereby made with this response, as September 27, 2008, fell on a Saturday and September 29, 2008 is the next business day following the due date with such an extension of time. The Applicant also hereby makes a conditional petition for any additional extension of time for response in the event that such a petition is required.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or to credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 15-0450.

Respectfully submitted,

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